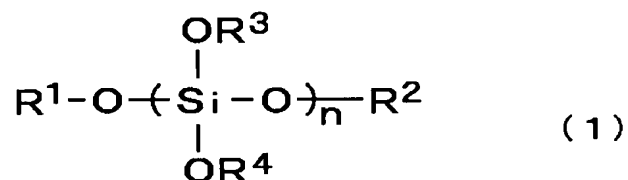


AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claim 1 (Original): A coating composition curable by active energy rays which composition contains a siloxane compound (A) obtainable by the hydrolysis and condensation of an alkyl silicate expressed by the following general formula (1)



wherein  $\text{R}^1$ ,  $\text{R}^2$ ,  $\text{R}^3$ , and  $\text{R}^4$  represent an alkyl group having 1 to 5 carbon atoms or an acyl group having 2 to 4 carbon atoms, respectively, and  $n$  indicates an integer from 3 to 20, and a cation polymerization initiator (B) having a sensitivity to the active energy rays.

Claim 2 (Original): The coating composition curable by active energy rays according to claim 1 wherein the composition further contains an epoxy compound (C).

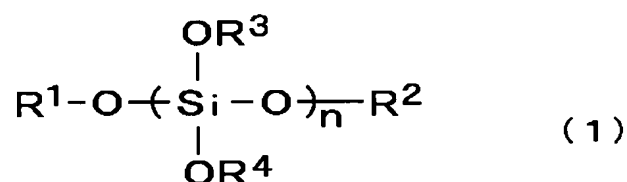
Claim 3 (Original): The coating composition curable by active energy rays according to claim 1 wherein the composition further contains a vinyl compound (D) having, in the molecule, a group having polymerizable double bond, and a radical polymerization initiator (E) having a sensitivity to the active energy rays.

Claim 4 (Original): The coating composition curable by active energy rays according to claim 1 wherein the composition further contains an epoxy compound (C), a vinyl compound (D) having, in the molecule, a group having polymerizable double bond, and a radical polymerization initiator (E) having a sensitivity to the active energy rays.

Claim 5 (Previously Presented): A method for forming a protective film by applying a coating composition defined in claim 1 on the surface of a substrate and then irradiating active energy rays to the composition to form the protective film.

Claim 6 (New): A method for preparing a coating composition curable by active energy rays which comprises:

hydrolyzing and condensing an alkyl silicate of formula (1) to produce a siloxane compound (A)



wherein R<sup>1</sup>, R<sup>2</sup>, R<sup>3</sup>, and R<sup>4</sup> represent an alkyl group having 1 to 5 carbon atoms or an acyl group having 2 to 4 carbon atoms, respectively, and n indicates an integer from 3 to 20, and

adding a cation polymerization initiator (B) having a sensitivity to the active energy rays to said siloxane compound (A) to produce the coating composition curably by active energy rays.

Claim 7 (New): A method for preparing a molded article having a protective film which comprises:

Applying the coating composition prepared by the method of claim 6 on the surface of a substrate; and

irradiating active energy rays to the composition to form the protective film.